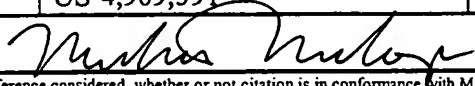
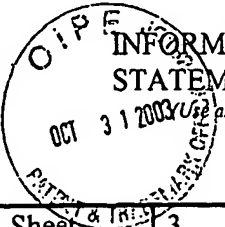
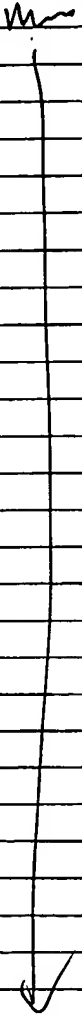
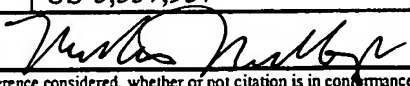



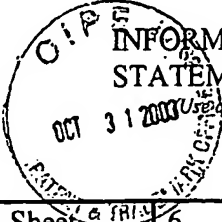
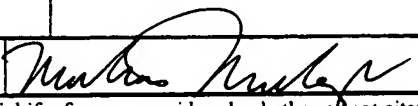
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				Filing Date	June 25, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Peterson et al.
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Sheet	1	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	2992.10US04
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-2,351,608	06-1944	Greenwood	
		US-2,439,383	04-1948	Erickson	
		US-2,526,902	10-1950	Rublee	
		US-2,881,762	04-1959	Lowrie	
		US-2,959,172	11-1960	Held	
		US-3,082,426	03-1963	Miles	
		US-3,123,077	03-1964	Alcamo	
		US-3,297,033	01-1967	Schmitt et al.	
		US-3,344,790	10-1967	Dorner	
		US-3,636,956	01-1972	Schneider	
		US-3,643,851	02-1972	Green et al.	
		US-3,716,058	02-1973	Tanner, Jr.	
		US-3,757,629	09-1973	Schneider	
		US-3,792,010	02-1974	Wasserman et al.	
		US-4,014,492	03-1977	Rothfuss	
		US-4,027,676	06-1977	Mattei	
		US-4,047,533	09-1977	Perciaccante et al.	
		US-4,162,678	07-1979	Fedotov et al.	
		US-4,259,959	04-1981	Walker	
		US-4,261,244	04-1981	Becht et al.	
		US-4,317,451	03-1982	Cerwin et al.	
		US-4,399,810	08-1983	Samuels et al.	
		US-4,407,286	10-1983	Noiles et al.	
		US-4,410,125	10-1983	Noiles et al.	
		US-4,428,376	01-1984	Mericle	
		US-4,485,816	12-1984	Krumme	
		US-4,493,322	01-1985	Becht	
		US-4,505,273	03-1985	Braun et al.	
	US-4,506,669	03-1985	Blake, III		
EXAMINER SIGNATURE			DATE CONSIDERED	3/2/05	
<p><small>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small></p> <p><small>¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.</small></p> <p><small>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</small></p>					

Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<i>Complete if Known</i> Application Number: 10/603,397 Filing Date: June 25, 2003 First Named Inventor: Peterson et al. Art Unit: 3731 Examiner Name: Not Assigned Attorney Docket Number: 2992.10US04	
Sheet	2	of	6		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
hrr		US-4,508,253	04-1985	Green	
		US-4,526,173	07-1985	Sheehan	
		US-4,526,174	07-1985	Froelich	
		US-4,535,772	08-1985	Sheehan	
		US-4,557,265	12-1985	Andersson	
		US-4,566,620	01-1986	Green et al.	
		US-4,568,009	02-1986	Green	
		US-4,570,623	02-1986	Ellison et al.	
		US-4,573,622	03-1986	Green et al.	
		US-4,583,670	04-1986	Alvarado	
		US-4,592,498	06-1986	Braun et al.	
		US-4,593,843	06-1986	Saravis	
		US-4,596,350	06-1986	Smith et al.	
		US-4,618,086	10-1986	Li et al.	
		US-4,665,916	05-1987	Green	
		US-4,719,917	01-1988	Barrows et al.	
		US-4,728,020	03-1988	Green et al.	
		US-4,741,337	05-1988	Smith et al.	
		US-4,752,024	06-1988	Green et al.	
		US-4,753,636	06-1988	Free	
	US-4,762,260	08-1988	Richards et al.		
	US-4,776,506	10-1988	Green		
	US-4,789,090	12-1988	Blake III		
	US-4,895,148	01-1990	Bays et al.		
	US-4,899,745	02-1990	Laboureau et al.		
	US-4,915,100	04-1990	Green		
	US-4,924,866	05-1990	Yoon		
✓		US-4,969,591	11-1990	Richards et al.	
EXAMINER SIGNATURE				DATE CONSIDERED	3/2/05
<small> [*]EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. </small>					

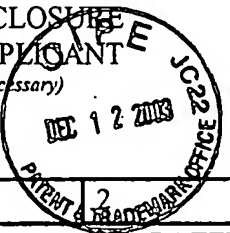
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		Application Number	10/603,397		
		Filing Date	June 25, 2003		
		First Named Inventor	Peterson et al.		
		Art Unit	3731		
		Examiner Name	Not Assigned		
Sheet	3	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	2992.10US04
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EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-4,976,686	12-1990	Ball et al.	
		US-4,994,073	02-1991	Green	
		US-5,002,562	03-1991	Oberlander	
		US-5,007,921	04-1991	Brown	
		US-5,015,252	05-1991	Jones	
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		US-5,062,563	11-1991	Green et al.	
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		US-5,089,009	02-1992	Green	
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		US-5,129,570	07-1992	Schulze et al.	
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		US-5,158,566	10-1992	Pianetti	
		US-5,158,567	10-1992	Green	
		*US-5,160,339	11-1992	Chen et al.	
		US-5,236,440	08-1993	Hlavacek	
		US-5,257,713	11-1993	Green et al.	
		US-5,258,009	11-1993	Connors	
		US-5,258,010	11-1993	Green et al.	
		*US-5,269,783	12-1993	Sander	
		US-5,269,792	12-1993	Kovac et al.	
		US-5,285,944	02-1994	Green et al.	
		US-5,292,326	03-1994	Green et al.	
		US-5,297,714	03-1994	Kramer	
		US-5,324,307	06-1994	Jarrett et al.	
		US-5,337,937	08-1994	Remiszewski et al.	
EXAMINER SIGNATURE			DATE CONSIDERED		
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				Filing Date	June 25, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Peterson et al.
				Art Unit	3731
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Sheet	4	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	2992.10US04
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL ¹	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
mm		US-5,342,376	08-1994	Ruff	
		US-5,366,134	11-1994	Green et al.	
		US-5,389,102	02-1995	Green et al.	
		US-5,392,979	02-1995	Green et al.	
		US-5,398,861	03-1995	Green	
		US-Des 357,316	04-1995	Green et al.	
		US-5,413,584	05-1995	Schulze	
		US-5,423,856	06-1995	Green	
		US-5,456,401	10-1995	Green et al.	
		US-5,478,003	12-1995	Green et al.	
		US-5,480,089	01-1996	Blewett	
		US-5,482,197	01-1996	Green et al.	
		US-5,489,058	02-1996	Plyley et al.	
		US-5,489,287	02-1996	Green et al.	
		US-5,505,363	04-1996	Green et al.	
		US-5,509,596	04-1996	Green et al.	
		US-5,514,149	05-1996	Green et al.	
		*US-5,549,619	08-1996	Peters et al.	
		US-5,551,622	09-1996	Yoon	
		US-5,558,266	09-1996	Green et al.	
		US-5,562,241	10-1996	Knodel et al.	
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		US-5,579,978	12-1996	Green et al.	
		US-5,584,859	12-1996	Brotz	
		US-5,591,178	01-1997	Green et al.	
		US-5,593,423	01-1997	Person et al.	
	EXAMINER SIGNATURE		DATE CONSIDERED		3/2/05
<p>¹EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p> <p>²Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁴Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁷Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.</p> <p>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p>					

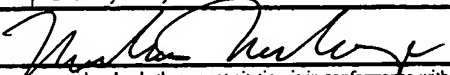
Substitute for form 1449/PTO				Complete if Known		
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; margin-right: 10px; text-align: center;"> OIP OCT 31 2003 OFFICE </div> <div> INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> </div> </div>				Application Number	10/603,397	
				Filing Date	June 25, 2003	
				First Named Inventor	Peterson et al.	
				Art Unit	3731	
				Examiner Name	Not Assigned	
Sheet 8 of 25	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	2992.10US04		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL ¹	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)				
mm		US-5,618,311	04-1997	Gryskiewicz		
		US-5,658,312	08-1997	Green et al.		
		US-5,662,258	09-1997	Knodel et al.		
		US-5,706,997	01-1998	Green et al.		
		US-5,725,538	03-1998	Green et al.		
		US-5,728,108	03-1998	Griffiths et al.		
		US-5,794,834	08-1998	Hamblin et al.		
		US-5,816,471	10-1998	Plyley et al.		
		US-5,829,662	11-1998	Allen et al.		
		US-5,871,135	02-1999	Williamson IV et al.		
		US-5,878,937	03-1999	Green et al.		
		US-5,902,319	05-1999	Daley		
		US-5,976,160	11-1999	Crainich		
		US-5,984,949	11-1999	Levin		
		US-6,090,131	07-2000	Daley		
		US-6,120,526	09-2000	Daley		
		US-6,131,789	10-2000	Schulze et al.		
		US-6,159,224	12-2000	Yoon		
		*US-6,250,532	06-2001	Green et al.		
		US-6,270,517	08-2001	Brotz		
	US-6,387,104	05-2002	Pugsley et al.			
	*US-6,619,529	09-2003	Green et al.			
	*US-6,629,988	10-2003	Weadock			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL ¹	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document		T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
mm		*EP 1 323 384 A2	07-2003	Kuhns et al.		
EXAMINER SIGNATURE				DATE CONSIDERED	3/2/05	
<p><small>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</small></p> <p><small>¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.</small></p> <p><small>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</small></p>						

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		Examiner Name	Not Assigned		
Sheet 6	of 6	Attorney Docket Number	2992.10US04		
NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published		T ²	
m		Brochure: <i>Information Booklet for AUTO SUTURE[®] Purse String Instrument</i> , Auto Suture Company, a division of United States Surgical Corporation, Norwalk, CT, 2 pgs., 1978.			
1		Brochure: <i>La Sutura Perde il Filo</i> , Farmitalia Carlo Erba, 4 pgs., not dated.			
J		Evaluation of New Absorbable Lactomer Subcuticular Staple, G.C. Zachmann, P.A. Foresman, T.J. Bill, D.J. Bentrem, G.T. Rodeheaver, R.F. Edlich, Journal of Applied Biomaterial, Vol. 5, No. 3, pp. 221-116, 1994.			
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<p><small>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.</small></p> <p><small>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</small></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.</small></p>					

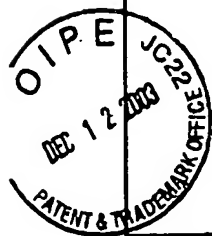
Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			<i>Complete if Known</i> Application Number: 10/603,397 Filing Date: June 25, 2003 First Named Inventor: Peterson et al. Art Unit: 3731 Examiner Name: Not Assigned Attorney Docket Number: 2992.10US04		
Sheet	1	of	2		



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EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)		
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EXAMINER SIGNATURE: 	DATE CONSIDERED:	3/2/05
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/603,397
Filing Date	June 25, 2003
First Named Inventor	Peterson et al.
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	Not Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	2992.10US04

Sheet 2 of 2

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)		
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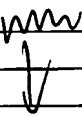
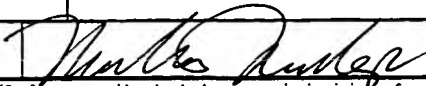
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Substitute for form 1449/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			<i>Complete if Known</i> Application Number 10/603,397 Filing Date June 25, 2003 First Named Inventor Peterson et al. Art Unit 3731 Examiner Name Not Assigned Attorney Docket Number 2992.10US04		
Sheet	1	of	U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS		
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
EXAMINER INITIAL [*]	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶
EXAMINER SIGNATURE			DATE CONSIDERED		
			3/2/05		
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